

for several decades, and I congratulate him for his lifetime of public service.

TRIBUTE TO MR. KENNETH WENTS

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute today to a man who served his country with dignity, and lived his life with honor. Mr. Kenneth Wents of Hacienda Heights, California, will always be remembered for his courage and heart.

Mr. Wents led a full and exciting life. Even as a prisoner of war during World War II for forty-two months, he faced extraordinary challenges with determination and optimism.

Mr. Wents touched the lives of many, especially the generous volunteers of the Greater La Puente Valley Meals on Wheels, who valued him and appreciated his warm spirit.

Mr. Speaker, the life of Mr. Kenneth Wents has greatly impacted the lives of many in a positive way. It is my honor to join his family and friends in commemorating his legacy.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FLOWER MOUND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, heralded as the first Presbyterian church in Denton County, Flower Mound Presbyterian Church is celebrating its 150th Anniversary. I am proud to congratulate Flower Mound Presbyterian on this great accomplishment.

Flower Mound Presbyterian Church's main priority is to foster a sense of "family" within its membership and, at the same time, open its doors wide to welcome the community. They continue the church's rich legacy of religious service to Flower Mound residents.

The church has lovingly preserved its original furnishings and all of the cherished memories that go with them. Each Sunday, the sanctuary is flooded with music from an old-style piano donated years ago. The original pews still sit in their initial circular arrangement around the lectern which also dates back to the church's beginnings in 1854.

The church remembers its past with numerous photo albums depicting the congregation as it has grown in number and traditions through the years. Images of the church's steeple being constructed provide a visual representation of the changes the church has undergone over time.

The church's white clapboard building, located in the area formerly known as "the Long Prairie," witnessed Flower Mound's growth from a sleepy rural hamlet to a vibrant suburban community. Flower Mound Presbyterian Church will commemorate its 150 years by erecting a historical marker in its cemetery.

Congratulations to the congregation at Flower Mound Presbyterian Church on their anniversary. One hundred and fifty years of worship is a milestone to be celebrated.

HONORING THE MARIPOSA COUNTY COURTHOUSE ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Mariposa County Courthouse on its 150 years of service to the needs of the community of Mariposa. The courthouse is holding numerous anniversary events throughout 2004 leading up to the actual anniversary.

Founded on September 8, 1850, the courthouse was built on land donated by Mr. John C. Fremont and cost a mere \$9,300 to construct. Throughout the last century and a half, the courthouse underwent several additions, including a clock tower in 1866, its first telephone in 1895, and electric lights in 1907. In 1958, the courthouse was officially recognized as a California State Landmark and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

The court has operated continuously ever since it's opening in 1850, making it the oldest, active courthouse west of the Rocky Mountains. Today, the original clock keeps the residents of Mariposa on time, just as it had done for the last 100 years. In addition, the services of the court have expanded into seven departments, including criminal, family law, small claims and traffic.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere pleasure to congratulate and honor the residents of Mariposa for their preservation and dedication to the Mariposa County Courthouse for the last 150 years. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the Mariposa County Courthouse many more years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, on June 8, 2004, during Rollcall votes 229 and 230 I was unavoidably detained. If I had been present, I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall votes 229 and 230.

MR. ROBERT ERVIN TAYLOR, IN HONOR OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. Robert Ervin Taylor in honor of his retirement as City Manager of Colonial Heights, Virginia for serving 20 years of dedicated service from 1984 to 2004.

In 1968, Mr. Taylor received his Bachelor of Science in History and Political Science from Appalachian State University. Upon the completion of his Master of Public Administration from the University of Tennessee in 1972, he became the Senior Administrative Analyst in

the Budget Office of the Finance Department for the City of Nashville-Davidson County. From 1973 to 1979, Mr. Taylor served as Assistant to the City Manager and Director of Personnel and Budget for the City of Suffolk, Virginia. He later served five years as City Manager for the City of Red Bank, Tennessee.

As City Manager for Colonial Heights, Mr. Robert Ervin Taylor has been responsible for the implementation of policies adopted by the City Council under the direction of five mayors and 22 council members. In addition, he has been in charge of enforcing all city laws and ordinances, the appointment and supervision of heads of 12 departments, and the preparation and execution of an annual \$38 million operating and \$3.5 million capital improvements budget.

With a penchant for community service and natural leadership, Mr. Taylor has served on several state, local and regional organizations. He has served as chairman of the Central Virginia Waste Management Authority and the South Central Wastewater Authority. Moreover, he was the Treasurer/Secretary of the Appomattox River Water Authority, and was on the Board of Directors for the Crater Planning District Commission and the Colonial Heights Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, he served as the President of the Colonial Heights Kiwanis Club.

Mr. Taylor has worked closely with the community to ensure the best quality of care for the citizens of Colonial Heights. He has been instrumental in carrying out the vision that has been set forth for the community; as such, the people have been able to rely on the dedicated and dependable service of Mr. Taylor.

Because of Mr. Taylor's resounding success, and his dedicated years of service the Colonial Heights community has benefited immensely from his leadership. He has consistently demonstrated a remarkable spirit of unity in his relations with other leaders in the community and an equal level of enthusiasm for serving the Colonial Heights area.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mr. Robert Ervin Taylor for his loyal and dedicated service and the many contributions he has made to his community.

A TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR CHIEN-JEN CHEN

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 9, 2004

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to join my many colleagues in offering best wishes to our great friend, Ambassador Chien-Jen Chen of Taiwan as he finishes his tour of duty here in the United States and returns home.

C.J. Chen has a long and distinguished career in public service. A highly-respected academic, he still holds the position of Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Diplomacy at National Chengchi University.

Prior to his appointment as his nation's representative to the United States, Ambassador Chen served in the Legislative Yuan of the Republic of China, rising to the position as Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Immediately preceding his current assignment, he served as Taiwan's Foreign Affairs Minister.